

**WE CLAIM**

1. An ink supply arrangement for a pagewidth printing mechanism that includes a number of printhead chips that are positioned in an array to span a print medium, the ink supply arrangement comprising
  - an elongate support structure;
  - a plurality of ink distribution structures that are positioned in the support structure, each ink distribution structure defining a number of ink channels in fluid communication with ink channels of an adjacent ink distribution structure such that the ink distribution
  - 10 structures together define ink channels that extend a length of the support structure;
  - a connector assembly that is engageable with an endmost ink distribution structure;
  - and
  - an ink supply assembly that is engageable with the connector assembly, the ink supply assembly having a number of conduits for supplying ink to respective ink channels, the connector assembly being configured to permit the ink supply assembly to be connected to the endmost ink distribution structure such that each conduit can supply ink to each respective ink channel.
2. An ink supply arrangement as claimed in claim 1, in which the support structure
- 20 includes an elongate channel member that defines a channel in which the ink distribution structures are positioned.
3. An ink supply arrangement as claimed in claim 1, in which the connector assembly includes an end cap member having a plurality of connectors that correspond with respective ink channels to be engageable with the endmost ink distribution structure and with respective conduits.
4. An ink supply arrangement as claimed in claim 3, in which the supply assembly
- 30 includes a number of ink containers in which respective inks can be received, each conduit of the ink supply assembly being an ink hose that is connected to a respective ink container to supply ink to a respective ink channel.

5. An ink supply assembly as claimed in claim 4, which includes a number of ink cartridges that are detachably mounted on the support structure, each ink cartridge being in fluid communication with a respective ink container.

6. An ink supply assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which each ink distribution structure is in the form of a molding that defines the channels as ink reservoirs.

7. A printing mechanism that comprises  
an ink supply arrangement that comprises

10

an elongate support structure;

a plurality of ink distribution structures that are positioned in the support structure, each ink distribution structure defining a number of ink channels in fluid communication with ink channels of an adjacent ink distribution structure such that the ink distribution structures together define ink channels that extend a length of the support structure;

a connector assembly that is engageable with an endmost ink distribution structure; and

20

an ink supply assembly that is engageable with the connector assembly, the ink supply assembly having a number of conduits for supplying ink to respective ink channels, the connector assembly being configured to permit the ink supply assembly to be connected to the endmost ink distribution structure such that each conduit can supply ink to each respective ink channel; and

a plurality of printhead chip carriers that are mounted on the support structure; and

a plurality of printhead chips, each printhead chip being mounted on a respective carrier.